The ideas of a modern teen

By J.C.

I wanted to write about my experiences in 2026 and all my ideas, so that's what this is. I don't expect to be some revolutionary or anything, but what I want in this world is for peace and help to all those who need it. I hope somewhere someone reads this and wakes up too. Someone somewhere realizes they need to stand up for what is right.

Helping others and making songs is all I thought I could do, but I figured it may have been a help to write a book about it. Especially because books are what inspired me to be the way I am! Like Persepolis and Anarchy and the Sex Question, for example.

I don't remember a whole lot about my childhood. I do remember 2021, though. After spending 3rd grade hating my teacher, not understanding fractions, and acting out, I guess I cooled it down in 4th. I was just more secret about it. My best friend had moved away, and I made new friends with the boys in my class who taught me how to curse and brought their mom's cocktails to school. What I realized then was this expectation for girls. For context, I was born a girl. Sure, most of the time they'd see me as just another one of them, but sometimes I could tell I was different in a way.

As I got older, that didn't change. Gender roles got more and more prevalent and I was sick of it. At 9, I didn't have to worry. At 11, I was then expected to be liking boys and hiding my period and all that. Even doing makeup when I wasn't even a teenager yet. At 12, my mom kept telling me I needed to wear bras and shave my armpits. I didn't do it though, because I didn't see a reason to. Well, eventually I got around to bras, because I had to run in PE. But I never got around to shaving and I was kissing girls.

I was lucky to be in a country where that was legal. But I wasn't lucky to be in a southern state, where it was still very much looked down upon. I hid it just in case. I also learned about how bad racism was because of one of my relationships, when my mom said that people don't like interracial lesbian relationships, apparently. I didn't understand anything wrong with it. Eventually I'd learn that white supremacists exist, and that they're stupid, and those are probably the same people hanging the confederate flags I see everywhere.

Misogyny didn’t ever get too bad for me until I was 12-13, when boys were dismissing my ideas just because I was a girl, doctors and family dismissed all my pain as anxiety or period pains, boys were calling me a woman as an insult and calling me multiple slurs for being visibly queer. If they were so worried about who I’m kissing and what’s in my pants, they were the weird ones anyway. I also remember this one boy in my carpentry class in 8th grade, who was yelling at this girl that she was a bitch while she just tried to do her work. I told him to be quiet. He said it wasn’t any of my business, and then he proceeded to call me a “transgender thing.” I just don’t waste my time with that kind of guy anymore.

After dealing with misogyny and hating gender roles, I just ended up being a gender abolitionist. It’s all stupid. I mean, some women in other countries aren’t even allowed to speak just because they had the unfortunate circumstance of being born a woman. It’s all made up rules, just like authority.

On February 28th, 2026, the United States attacked Iran. Speaking as an American, we did not really want this. I think it had something to do with Israel and oil, of course. Ever since I knew about war, I always found it dumb. It’s either imperialism or disagreements from world leaders, sending their young men to get themselves and others killed to prove some point or get more power and money. War shows the most violent, selfish, and evil extremes of humanity, and it’s one of the things I wish to go away the most.

Being anti-war made me anti-imperialist, and it made me look into more problems with the United States. Capitalism. As I learned from my great world history education in 7th grade, there’s a bourgeoisie and a proletariat. And if hard work got you rich as the capitalists say, I think I’d be able to have my own room by now or at least not be living off of food stamps. Sure, part of it is my parents having 4 kids, but also because of us being lower middle class. My parents both have multiple jobs that they work most of the day at, and we still can barely afford the food we need. I find the damn billionaires and trillionaires and corporations aren’t doing much for anyone but polluting the world and trying to get you to buy their products.

I think I discovered anarchism sometime in 2025. I already believed a community would be better than a hierarchy, so I thought it may have been a good system. It also may have partially been from my hatred of authority and belief that rules are made up. My idea for a system though was that you produce something like food, give some to your community, and have some for yourself. Then you build a good community where you help each other. Eventually we have all these communities around the world. That’s my goal. We all make what we need, share it, have enough for ourselves, and live. It’s simple. But some say that we need a government for violent criminals. I say let the people deal with them. You got a rapist? You kill them. Simple.

Other than my education and books inspiring me to be the radical leftist I am today, it was none other than music, my favorite thing in the whole word! Music is so beautiful, almost everyone has some kind of music they like, and it gets so many ideas across in a good way. And lyrics are like poetry, especially in rap. But enough about that. What music exactly did radicalize me? Well, I started with riot grrrl, then I discovered punk. Bikini Kill was my favorite before I discovered X Ray Spex. X Ray Spex is still probably my favorite punk band ever.

So back on capitalism. What's wrong with modern day consumerism? I can think of a few things. The workers making the things you pay for usually don't get paid enough, or they are made by companies that exploit other workers along with contributing to pollution. Everything is tied to labor in the world today. All you can do is try your best to be ethical, because you can't be 100% ethical and still get everything you need.

In America nowadays, I've met 2 types of people. The socialists and capitalist Trump supporters. I just hope I don't meet the 2nd type when I make a new friend, and luckily, it's becoming more uncommon especially with all the things coming out about Trump lately. You figure it out by calling that guy an orange or talking about ICE and see how they react. A fun one is talking about borders. See how they feel about those. The fact is, people are gonna commit crimes anyway…I don't care where they came from. And the other fact is Trump isn't doing anything good for us.

Right now, I just advocate online for what I believe in and hope those with power can hear me and all the ones who agree with me. My situation makes it a little tough to do anything about the current world. I'm a child, I can't go out on my own, I can't organize anything, I don't have the money to convince anyone of anything anyway, so I sit and wait. Or that's what I used to do. There's no use in just sitting and hoping.

So, you're in a similar situation. What do you do? Of course adults organize and protest, but what if you're a teen like me? You help your community. You tell people what you think. You give what you can to those who need it. Kindness and speaking up are the best solutions we currently have. I hope when we are older, we have the power to change things. At least adults are heard.

So remember this. Don't be hopeless. They want you to be hopeless so you don't do anything. I encourage you all to spread your ideas, and to help each other, and to do the best you can. Good luck out there.

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